

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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WILLIAM JAMES BENNERS, JR.

By E. Burke Collins

The human being — save in rarely exceptional cases — is possessed of at least one talent. William J. Benners, Jr. is blessed with more than the average amount. Born in the city of Philadelphia, he is the descendant of good old stock. His grandfather was one of Philadelphia's solid men. By his own unaided efforts he amassed a large fortune. The business "grit" and integrity of this ancestor seems to have been inherited by the subject of my sketch, who is a clear-headed business man of impregnable honesty and brilliant executive ability. Frank and outspoken to a degree, Mr. Benners has "the courage of his convictions," and when his opinion is sought upon any subject, he is not afraid to express it; always courteously, but with refreshing frankness. This attribute, while it has gained him the sobriquet of "Old Reliable," has the effect of keeping at a distance the superficial element, for which, indeed, he has a sovereign contempt. Courteous, obliging and very kind-hearted toward his fellow creatures, he yet makes few friends. He is too outspoken and honest to please the everyday world, and he prefers to be understood and appreciated by a few congenial spirits than be the cynosure of the uncomprehensive crowd.

There are few men who have traveled so extensively. He has made three complete tours of Europe; also visited every nook and corner of the United States, from Maine to Florida, Oregon to Lower California. He has visited

Cuba, Mexico, Canada, British America, Manitoba, Alaska and the Islands of the Atlantic. Mingled with the experience which such extensive travel must necessarily bring, is a knowledge of human nature and a wonderful power to fathom the minds of other people; a psychic attribute, very unusual.

From earliest childhood a devoted lover of books, the taste for reading and literary research has "grown with his growth and strengthened with his strength" until it has become an important factor in his life. His knowledge of the literature of the day, and the history and career of the leading news and story papers is very remarkable. To this new and untried field he has devoted much time and research in connection with wonderful powers of observation. He is au fait in everything pertaining to newspaper work. "Some men are born great." Mr. Benners is a born journalist and editor. In the latter work he particularly excels. Into any congenial occupation he enters heartily and is very enthusiastic. He aims high, and is never contented with mediocre achievements. Therefore, as an editor or manager of a large business where accurate and quick judgment is required, he is the right man in the right place. He is peculiarly adapted to the editorial "grind" as he is fertile in resource, versatile in talents, and his knowledge of contemporary journalism is practically inexhaustible. In regard to the current literature of the day he is a walking encyclopaedia, and makes no error when questioned concerning the history of the leading news and story

papers as he has made these subjects a study for years. For a time Mr. Benners was connected editorially with a well-known story paper; he has also had the honor of editing several novels of the late Mrs. May Agnes Fleming. As the editor of a story paper Mr. Benners would be a great success.

Possessed of a keen perception, and a mind alive to the requirements of the position, his career in this capacity would be a bright one. He has at his command an immense amount of material, and has almost endless resources in his control. In short, should he decide to embark in a journalistic venture his career cannot fail to prove a brilliant one. He is an authority in regard to nearly all the contemporary writers of fiction; knows something of their methods of work, their everyday life and the various pen names behind which they masquerade.

While in Europe Mr. Benners made the personal acquaintance of a number of the most celebrated English authors. He was enabled to purchase certain novels which he retains in his possession, with a view to their future publication in America where they have never appeared. As he now owns the sole right to these novels on this side of the water it rests with him whether American readers will ever have the pleasure of reading them.

Mr. Benners excels in authorship as well as in the editorial capacity. As a writer of light fiction he has no superior. His pen is facile; his ideas clean and wholesome; his plots complicated; his stories always "point a moral." Even the most rigid opponent of light literature can find no fault with a story which inculcates a good moral lesson, and Mr. Benners' stories always do. His style is brisk, laconic, romantic, and has an intensity and magnetism mingled with a dash of pathos and sentiment that causes his characters to appear to live, breathe and have their being; and many of the scenes are reproductions from life, from his careful observations. His situations are always dramatic and well shaded. A little sketch, "One Road to Heaven," contains such pathos and tenderness as will bring tears to the reader's eyes. It was awarded a prize of \$50. "Dr. Martindale's Temp-

tation" is one of the best sketches by this author, and has helped to make him known as a writer of short stories, in which he is always at his best.

With it all he is eminently practical, clear headed and logical, with a wonderful faculty for seeing both sides of a question—a rare gift, and rather unusual in a strictly business character.

Mr. Benners is an advocate of all healthful out door sports. He is an ardent lover of hunting and fishing, very fond of horseback riding, and devoted to the bicycle. His favorite hours for work at the desk are in the morning and at night, when all the world is wrapped in silence and the brain becomes clearer and brighter and more comprehensive.

His new enterprise—the Constance Library—is already proving a grand success, even in these days of cheap literature. The first issue, entitled, "A Modern Heathen," is having an immense sale. It is now in its fourth edition, over 40,000 copies having been sold. This—the 94th—novel by E. Burke Collins has a most remarkable history. Nearly a year ago the author disposed of the MS. to Mr. Will J. Benners, Jr.

For over twelve years Mrs. Collins has been writing serial stories, under special contract, for a popular Northern story paper. She receives an enormous salary—being the best paid writer in the South. Her publisher maintained that under this contract he had sole right to all her work. She claimed the privilege of disposing of her book right elsewhere. Mr. Benners contested the case in court and came off victorious, and a last "A Modern Heathen"—so long heralded—is before the public. It has cost Mr. Benners thousands of dollars, but he is amply compensated by the enormous sale of the book. It has been alleged that this novel was intended as an attack upon a certain denomination of the Christian religion, but such is not the case. It has also been compared favorably to Robert Elsmere.

Personally, Mr. Benners is tall, with dark eyes and hair and a dark moustache. He is kind-hearted and sympathetic, and generous to a fault. Unlike too many others of his profession he has none of the petty jealousy which maintains among a certain class. He feels that since the world is

wide there is room for all; and to the literary brotherhood he extends the right hand of fellowship.

—Clipping

CHICAGO DIME NOVELS—

There are several collectors of old-fashioned paper-covered dime novels, also of 5 cent ones, that are concerned with Chicago. Among them: "Frank Merriwell's Speed, or Breaking the Chicago Colts" (1900); "Fred Fearnott in Chicago, or the Abduction of Evelyn" (1899); "Jesse James in Chicago" (1901); "The Red Flag, or The Anarchists of Chicago"; "Dick Dashaway, or A Dakota Boy in Chicago"; "Saved at the Scaffold," by Allen F. Pinkerton.

One of the paper-bound books is "Who Killed Dr. Cronin?, or At Work on the Great Chicago Murder Mystery," by "Old Cap Lee," published in 1899. In the Young Rover library is "Link Rover in Chicago, or Making Things Fairly Hum," and in the Nick Carter library is "The Pullman Plot, the time of which was about the beginning of the great Pullman strike in Chicago.

—Edwin Brooks

WE PLEAD GUILTY, IT'S THE WAR

(The following was mailed to us by an Anonymous Contributor)

Shades of Diamond Dick and Old Cap Collier. What is happening to the collector of old time novels? No more do they ride the plains with Bill Cody or snoop around the dark dens of Chinatown with Old King Brady. But instead they attend pink teas with Lady Gwendolyn or force their cruel and sinister intentions upon poor but proud sewing girls. They "ain't done right by our Nellie."

They brazenly advertise their "love bug" wants in that one time "he man" publication Dime Novel Round-up.

Brother Pitcher wept tears of joy over a few copies of his wants in Mrs. D. E. M. Southworth and Charlotte M. Braeme.

Said copies being supplied by Brother Bragin.

Incidentally it is rumored that Brother Bragin will either give away, or burn up his huge stock of Beadles Publications and stock up again with the standard works of Charles Gar-

vice, May Agnes Fleming, Effie Adelaide Rowlands and other authors of that type whose works are so much now in demand.

Brother Cummings unblushingly confesses that "Lady Ova's Sin" by Bertha M. Clay (Wm. J. Benners) is about the best thing he ever read. Says that the thrilling love scenes where Ova and her handsome lover went into a clinch, left him breathless and covered with goose pimples.

Brother Burns writes us that he is terribly ashamed of the "blood and thunder" articles that he wrote for Roundup under the pen name of Deadwood Dick Jr. Says that in future he is going to write only highly refined articles, many of them taken from scenes of his own early and highly romantic life. He is now working on one that he considers his masterpiece, entitled, "Down by the Railroad Track; or Dirty Doings After Dark." Bill says that as yet he has not chosen a pen name as author, but considers one highly necessary in case the article might be read by his wife some time.

Brother Moran offers his huge scatter gun for sale and has given to the Oakland Memorial Museum his large collection of human scalps. He is now starting a collection of hearts of the feminine gender. Stimulation for same being furnished by huge files of Family Story Papers and Fireside Companions that Pat obtained from an eastern collector.

Our eminent ballad writer Brother Austin has just published his latest song hit. It is entitled, "Lady Godivas Ride; or What Did She Wear." Getting classical, eh Charlie!

Dean Maraske suggests that owing to the growing trend toward more lady-like literature, that all members discard the gandhi breech clout in favor of Scotch kilts. Says it is much more modest and refined. Bill Burns should welcome this suggestion as Scotch kilts are made more suitable to the climate of Maine than breech clouts. Bill says he suffered intensely from the cold last winter in running around with only a breech clout and patent leathers as wearing apparel.

Be sure and get the latest copy of Ranch Romances. On all newstands. A treat for all.

DEADSHOT DAN, THE BOY SKOUT

Far out akross the western planes
 his fiery mustang lopes,
 And now an emmenence he ganes
 and rouses up his hopes.
 His steed, obedient to his werd,
 lyes down upon the ground,
 As neer the injun yells is herd
 in triumf to resound.
 "Not yet, Tall Thunder!" crys the boy
 "He heer your paintid braves,
 change kwick thair
 shreeking hoops of joy—
 they gallop to thair graves!"
 With that, his tryed and trustie gun
 akross his steed is thrust,
 A shot! and red skin number One,
 has strateway bit the dust!
 But stil thair yells rang on the breez,
 on came the demuns red,
 and stil the Boy Skout lay at eese
 and pumped them full ov led.
 So one by one the injuns fall
 That vanely gainst him strive,
 And ov three hunderd bravs in all
 But one is left alive!
 tis he, Tall Thunder, of the Soos,
 the cheef ov all the band.
 he nose the Boy Skout won't refews
 To fite him hand to hand.
 "Cum out, Pail Face, hear on the
 plane.
 it shall be life 4 life!
 cum fite til one or both is slane.
 With me and nife to nife!"
 The Boy Skout frum him threw away
 his batel heeted gun,
 And sooner then it talks to say,
 the dewel had begun.
 In vane with awl his mitey strength
 Tall Thunder cut and thrust,
 in just about a minit's lenth
 he 2 had bit the dust!
 The Boy Skout wiped his reeking
 blade
 free from the savidge goar,
 2 noat, awl ded, around him lade
 300 braves or moar.
 Then with a lowd eksultant shout
 "Thair awl wiped out—behold!
 by Dedshot dan, the Boy Skout,
 a lad but 10 yeres old!
 if this Ive dun as hear is shone,"
 ecksklaimed yung ded shot Dan,
 "What wil I do when I hav grone
 up to a grate big man?"
 So saying, to his steed he strode,
 resoomed his trusty gun,
 & wistling, boy like, he road
 2ward the setting sun.

—H. O. Rawson

A SAD CALAMITY

A few evenings ago a little chap living in the vicinity of the Windy City reached home in a very demoralized condition. Minus one of his luxuriant sideburns and whole handfuls of hair from his already scanty crop, while the deep furrows on his face resembled the network of canals on Mars.

Police investigation of the incident disclosed the fact that the little gentleman was acting judge at a baby show and owing to near blindness, by mistake awarded the beauty prize to a negro baby. The other indignant mammas refused to accept his apology for the mistake.

(Editors note—It is rumored that Brother Jonas has ordered considerable quantities of Dr. Bragins Famous Facial Renovator and two quarts of Bragins Healthy Hair Tonic, guaranteed to even grow hair on a flat-iron. Is this just a coincident Chut?

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

George Barton tells us that Dick & Stecher's "New York Boys Weekly" is a large 8 page weekly, the same size and makeup as Boys of New York. It was first published as Harrigan and Harts New York Boys Weekly — and in his copy the announcement was made that from then on it would be known as Leon LeRoys New York Boys Weekly—always the same paper with different sponsors. From what George has been able to find out, this paper together with the "Boys Champion, a similar large eight page paper were issued by Tousey under another publisher's name, so that he might control the story paper field as far as possible. One strong reason for this belief is the fact that stories by Howard De Vere and Paul Braddon, both being pen names used by Tousey authors appeared in these papers.

These papers had nothing in common with the New York Boys Library which appeared shortly after their death, altho this too was a Tousey effort or some other outfit that bought his second company out for altho given as the Popular Pub. Co. They had a catalog of "Champion" hand books which the first co. issued.

The New York Boys Library issued by this company was a 32 page weekly the size of Tip Top (small) and contained three complete stories in each issue and had an extremely crude woodcut illustration on the cover which was tinted pink or green, varying from week to week. George only has one copy, and it is sure unique. He reproduced it on one of his Christmas cards.

Albert J. Gordon, H. H. Bro. member No. 83, says it may interest you all to know that Dey, author of Nick Carter was a personal friend of his.

Bill Gander says that some of the illustrations in the early numbers of Bullseye were similar to illustrations in one or two papers issued by the same firm, the Amalgamated Press back in 1911-14; either "Fun and Fiction"; which was started in the fall of 1911, or the paper which replaced it in the spring of 1914—"The Firefly." I'm not sure which one it was, but I remembered the illustrations perfectly, though the stories they illustrated were different.

Frisco Bert Couch wants to know if anything is the matter with Arvid Dahlstedt, as he hasn't heard from him in a long time, so you had better get a letter off to him, Pard.

Arvid visited a lot of the boys out on the west coast, such as Frisco Bert Couch, Emmett Dalton (before he died), Ray Mengar and many others out there, also their wives too. (Better look out for the ladies, Arvid.) Arvid also met Pat Moran too, and had a fine time looking over the old timers.

Robert McDowell, Company A, 93rd A. T., Fort Meade, Md., says he enjoys the Roundup and J. P. Guinon's letters, as they are all that he has there, to remind him of Tip Top.

George Barton again to the fore. George says he has noticed complaints from time to time in the Roundup, that the good old format of novels and story papers were no more. He says here's a chance for us fellows to help one or two old time publishers still going. Munsey's have changed Argosy's and Flynn's (detective fiction) to a larger 48 page, 3 column size with fine pen and ink illustrations.

George French says he bought the complete set of "My Queen," Nos. 1 to 30. George says he intends to have

the author, whom he bought them from; Mrs. Lurana Sheldon, alias Grace Shirley to autograph them for him. Mrs. Sheldon has also written for the regular authors, when they were drunk or sick. She wrote stories for Do & Dare, Jesse James Stories, Wild Wests etc., of which she wrote in the employ of first Tousey, then Street & Smith. George says he had a great visit with her, and heard lots about her experiences and saw bushels of writeups about her when she was turning out stories by the cartload.

P. J. Moran gives information on Union Jack as follows—"Union Jack" published in England, the earlier numbers, such as Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4, each volume in fine red cloth binding, commenced publication January 1st, 1880. Edited first by W. H. G. Kingston and later by G. A. Henty. Pub. by Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington, Gram Bldgs. 188 Fleet Street, London, England. First volume had only 40 numbers. The other volumes had 52 nos. each. The fourth volume starts a "new series" and starts out again as Vol. 1 No. 1. The Journal was 16 pages to the issue from the start. It seems that after the first volume, the volumes started in October instead of January, making the first volume only 40 issues. The stories are adventure, War, Sea, Indian, etc. More about the later issues of Union Jack, by George Barton in the next issue.

NEW H. H. BRO MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR OF 1941

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nos. | |
| 39. | H. O. Rawson, 53 Channing St., Worcester, Mass. |
| 68. | C. H. Blake, 4000 Crutcher St., Dallas, Texas. |
| 113. | James H. Van Demark, 113 Vliet St., Cohoes, N. Y. |
| 120. | Lester Sisk, Box 398, Oil City, La. |
| 122. | Robert McDowell, 20 Mifflin Ave., Uniontown, Pa. |
| 140. | Norman Alexander Hall, 67 Union St., Newton Centre, Mass. (New member) |
| 141. | Benjamin Stetson, Box 214, Hanover, Mass. (Old member). |
| 142. | Thomas W. Figley, Glouster Public Schools, Glouster, Ohio. (New member) |

143. Francis J. Scully, M. D., 904
Medical Arts Bldg., Hot Springs
Ark. (New member)

Change of Address

51. Harold C. Holmes, 672 Chapel
St., New Haven, Conn.

Forms close the 15th of each month, so be sure and have your ads in by the 15th, as this is the day the copy goes to press. Please don't hold us up. Thanks. Ye editor.

WANTED

High numbers of the Western Story Library (Buffalo Bill) #71, 72, 74. Certain numbers of Adventure Series, American Detective Series, Alger Series, Adventure Library, Motor Stories, All Sports, etc. Send list and I'll send mine, or what do you want in cash?

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WANTED

Early Western Life Series, # 12-14
Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

WANTED

The Complete Works of Pierre Lowea
Roscoe Parker
Oak St., Grafton, Mass.

WANTED

The Dartmoor Murder Case. Send price
Lena Carter
Falmouth Heights, Falmouth, Mass.

FOR SALE

Wild Wests, Nick Carters and a few other kinds, also 5 double barrel shot guns, 1 45 70 Rifle, New Parker pen and pencil set, never used, 800 all different Match covers, etc., to trade for?

LEWIS W. DOSS

Route 2 Lancaster, Ohio

WANTS

Pluck & Luck and Secret Service
N. H. Stewart
Route 1, Scotts, Mich.

WANTS — Liberty Boys of 76 and Diamond Dick Jr. Weekly. Send list and prices. **Joseph K. Gantner, c/o DeLux Studios, Boonville, Mo.**

To the memory of

JOHN J. MARONEY

who passed on ten years ago.

AUGUST 3rd, 1931

FOR SALE

Am disposing of some of my stock of novels, and can offer some very early Tip Tops and Work & Win, the later stuff in Wild West, Fame & Fortune and Pluck & Luck. Send me your want list.

J. P. GUINON

Box 214 Little Rock, Ark.

FOR SWAP

Medal Library, Magnet Library, Bound to Win Library, Boys of Liberty Library. I want The Cobb Library or?

WM. M. BURNS

15 Cottage St., Rockland, Maine

Lots of Books for sale, such as Hobo Camp-fire Tales, A No. 1, Opie Reads, Laura Jean Libby's, C. M. Braemes, and others.

Ira Franklin Jr.

2709 E. 10th St. Tulsa, Okla.

GERMANS BURN 40,000 'THRILLERS' TO SAVE YOUNG

Forty-thousand volumes of detective, "Wild West" and Indian stories, which had been put in circulation here since the revolution, were piled up and burned today under the supervision of the Association for the Protection of German Youths. Recently the association has carried on an extensive speech-making campaign against such literature.

The books burned today were turned in by youths who had purchased them. The association has given the youths in exchange for the destroyed books classical works and other good reading matter.

Gil Patten, who, as Burt L. Standish wrote the Frank Merriwell dime novels which thrilled the youth of America more than 25 years ago, now has collected enough money to provide for his needs....When Patten's plight became desperate recently a mutual friend wrote to William Lyon Phelps at Yale and suggested that inasmuch as Patten's creation, Frank Merriwell, had achieved such glory for Yale in all those books, the students at New Haven might be interested in establishing a fund for aiding the author....Prof. Phelps replied with a personal check for \$100, but explained that it would be impossible to raise a fund at Yale—because the students knew nothing about Frank Merriwell. They hadn't yet been born at the time Merriwell pitched his double-shoot for Yale in Burt Standish's novels.

"Acres of Gold," was written by Franklin Peirce Corrigan in the April 1905 issue. Mr. Corrigan was a great Philadelphia writer, as well as poet.

MRS. ROSA L. INGRAHAM

Author, Artist, Composer

Mrs. Rosa Langley Ingraham, 86, author of children's books and a music composer, died late Monday at her home at the Edgewood Preparatory School, Greenwich, Conn. She was the widow of Col. Prentiss Ingraham, a well-known dime novelist of 50 years ago.

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- No. 4. The Great Five Cent Wide Awake Library, by George H. Cordier.

Price 25c Each

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.

A New Stock

THAT HAS JUST COME IN, THAT'S FOR SALE, AS FOLLOWS

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All Sports Library, Nos. 1 to 38 at \$1.00 each

All Sports Library, Nos. 39 to 44, 46 to 52 at 25c each

Paul Jones Weekly, very rare, Nos. 2 to 17 at \$2.00 each.

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Diamond Dick Jr. Weekly, Nos. 452 to 499 501 to 700 at \$1.00 each

Diamond Dick Jr. Weekly, Nos. 701 to 733 at 60c each

Tip Top Weekly, Nos. 142 to 300 at \$1.00 each

Tip Top Weekly, Nos. 301 to 400 at 50c each — 401 to 850 at 25c each.

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